

DEPARTMENT OF STATE TELEGRAM

MFG. 1-72

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 7976

SUBJ: "SPIRIT OF SALT" IS VIOLATED.

1. LATEST ISSUE NEW TIMES NO. 33 CARRIES ONE OF FEW COMMENTARIES ON SENATOR JACKSON'S CRITICISM OF INTERIM SALT AGREEMENT. THRUST OF ARTICLE ATTACKING ALSO PENTAGON REQUEST FOR FUNDING OF NEW WEAPONS IS VERY SIMILIAR TO JULY 28 RED STAR COMMENTARY ON SALT. BOTH ARTICLES ACCUSE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, AND NEW TIMES IMPLIES PRESIDENT ALSO GUILTY OF VIOLATING "SPIRIT" OF SALT.

2. IN ARTICLE ENTITLED "STRATEGIC ZIG-ZAGS" BY N. APKHOMOV, NEW TIMES QUOTES PRESIDENT AS SAYING IN HIS LETTERS TO CONGRESS THAT SALT AGREEMENTS CONSTITUTE "IMPORTANT STEP IN NEW ERA OF MUTUAL AGREEMENT ON RESTRAINT AND LIMITATION OF HARMAMENTS.." PAKHOMOV NOTES THAT NIXON ALOS APPROVED "IN PRINCIPLE" SECRETARY LAIRD'S STATEMENT THAT HE CANNOT SUPPORT SALT AGREEMENTS IF STEPS ARE NOT TAKEN TO "PRESERVE US TECHNOLOGICAL SUPERIORITY IN MILITARY FIELD." NEW TIMES DID NOT SPECIFICALLY ACCUSE PRESIDENT OF "ZIG-ZAGS" BUT IMPLICATION IS CERTAINLY THERE.

3. BOTH NEW TIMES AND THE ARMY NEWSPAPER RED STAR MAKE SEN. JACKSON, PENTAGON, AND MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX VILLAINS OF THEIR SCRIPT. NEW TIMES ATTACKS JACKSON FOR "THEORY THAT THERE ARE SUPPOSEDLY 'LOOPHOLES' PERMITTING SOVIET UNION TO CONTINUE TO AMASS STRATEGIC WEAPONS" AND PENTAGON FOR REQUESTING NEW WEAPONS "NOT YET COVERED"

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FILE REF.

BY SALT AGREEMENT; RED STAR ATTACKS ARGUMENTS THAT US GAVE USSR "TOO MANY ADVANTAGES" DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS. DETAILS OF JACKSON'S AMENDMENT TO INTERIM AGREEMENT ARE NOT DISCUSSAD.

4. RED STAR IN PARTICULAR EXAMINES PROPOSED US STRATEGIC WEAPON MODERNIZATION PROGRAM: INVOLVING 20 TRIDENT SUBS ARMED WITH 20-24 ROCKETS HAVING OVER 10,000 KM RANGE CAPABLE OF BEING FIRED EVEN FROM US COASTAL WATERS; 250 B-1 BOMBERS WITH SPEED 2-3 TIMES SPEED OF SOUND. NEW TIMES MENTIONS NEW ATOMIC AIRCRAFT CARRIER.

5. RED STAR AND NEW TIMES BOTH CLAIMED THAT PENTAGON'S PROGRAM "VIOLATES SPIRIT OF MOSCOW AGREEMENTS" EVEN THOUGH RED STAR ACKNOWLEDGED THAT IT DID NOT CONTRADICT THE "LETTER" OF THE AGREEMENT. RED STAR ENDS ON FAMILIAR "VIGILANCE" NOTE THAT RESTRICTION OF STRATEGIC WEAPONS DOES NOT MEAN END OF DANGER OF WAR. ACCORDINGLY, "SOVIET UNION AND ITS ALLIES WILL UNDERTAKE ALL NECESSARY MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN THEIR DEFENSE CAPABILITY" (COMMENT: WITHOUT, OF COURSE, VIOLATING "SPIRIT" OF SALT).

DECON: 8/10/73 BEAM

BT

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